

II. Remarks

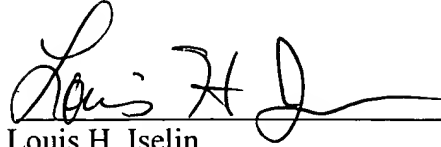
Claims 1-45 were pending in the Application. Claims 7, 18, 24, and 26 have been amended. Claims 1-45 remain pending in the Application.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment to the Specification be entered into the record. Applicants have provided the Application Serial Numbers for the priority claims, which were unknown at the time of filing the instant application.

Applicants also respectfully request that these Amendments to claims 7, 18, 24, and 26 be entered into the record. Applicants have inserted the inadvertently omitted verb “is” in claims 7 and 18. Applicants have written out acronyms that appear in the Specification in claims 24 and 26. “RSM” is defined, for example, in the first paragraph of p.15. “SMI” is defined, for example, in paragraph 2 on page 19 and in paragraph 3 on page 21. No new matter has been introduced into claims 7, 18, 24, and 26 through these amendments, and no change in the scope of the claims is intended or foreseeable.

Should any questions arise as to the entry or material in this Preliminary Amendment, a telephone call is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis H. Iselin", written over a horizontal line.

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REVISIONS MADE TO THE SPECIFICATION AND CLAIMS

First Paragraph on Page 2

This Application is a continuation-in-part of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. [] 09/852,372, entitled, "Secure Execution Box and Method," filed on May 10, 2001, whose inventors are Dale E. Gulick and Geoffrey S. Strongin. This Application is also a continuation-in-part of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. [] 09/852,942 entitled, "Computer System Architecture for Enhanced Security and Manageability," filed on May 10, 2001, whose inventors are Geoffrey S. Strongin and Dale E. Gulick.

7. (Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the predetermined value is less than about 2 seconds.

18. (Amended) The computer system of claim 12, wherein the predetermined value is less than about 2 seconds.

24. (Amended) The computer system of claim 23, wherein the interrupt comprises [an] a system management interrupt (SMI), wherein the secure operating mode comprises system management mode (SMM).

26. (Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein determining if the computer system is in a first operating mode includes determining if the computer system is in system management mode, and wherein asserting a control signal if the first timer has reached the predetermined value includes executing [an] a return from SMM (RSM) instruction before an SMI handler exits the system management mode.